

authentic records : and as truth is always clear to those who seek it in an unbiassed frame of mind, long dissertations are not only unnecessary, they are wearisome.

The Address showed we had two undoubted facts regarding the Cabot voyage of 1497, viz :—The course was west from England, and the Islands found were distant seven hundred leagues. Confined to these two facts the landfall might be on some part of the Labrador, or on the northeastern Coast of Newfoundland, or on some part of Cape Breton. Each locality had its champions : but as a third known quantity was required to convince a reader of a logical turn of mind, theories more or less ingenious, and, we shall say, more or less probable, were elaborated into facts, and each champion had his case proved—to his own satisfaction at least. Now the Address affirmed that Da Soncino's letter, the reliability of which is beyond question, supplied the third known quantity in a passage the value of which had been strangely overlooked. We have been gently reprimanded by Dr. Dawson for this assertion, yet, perforce we must repeat it.

When, however, we reflect that Mr. Harrisse asserts that Tanais was a "well defined coast bordering the Eastern Seaboard of Asia," and Dr. Dawson took it as a vague expression for some eastern lands, we must cease to marvel that others should pass it by unheeded.

The Address stated that Da Soncino gave us a clue to the latitude of the landfall by saying, "et andando verso el levante ha passato assai el passe del Tanais." ("And going towards the east he passed considerably beyond the Country of Tanais.") Dr. Dawson truly says that the translation of the passage "seems easy enough." Yet, strange to say, we have seen translations that are inaccurate and misleading. That of Mr. Harrisse is only slightly faulty: "considerably beyond," not "far beyond," is the correct rendering of "*Passato assai*" when written. In conversation, by tone and accent, *assai* could be made to signify far.

In the Address it was maintained that this passage indicated approximately the latitude of the landfall. Cabot sailed from Bristol and he "passed considerably beyond the country of Tanais" before sighting land. As Bristol is north of Tanais the landfall should be considerably south of it. Thus Labrador and the Newfoundland Coast would be excluded, being too far north. The only land, 700 leagues west of Bristol and considerably south of Tanais is Cape Breton Island, on some part of which the landfall must be located.

Dr. Dawson still maintains that Tanais was an "indefinite region" not in "Europe but in Asia," and "not likely to be taken as a standard of location for newly discovered regions." Moreover, he asserts that